



BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of the Regular Board of Police Commissioners Meeting Thursday, April 17, 2008

The meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners was held on Thursday, April 17, 2008, at 3:00 p.m., at Police Headquarters, 1300 Beaubien, Detroit, Michigan 48226.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present

Erminia Ramirez
Jim Holley (**ABS**)
Mohamed Okdie
Willie Hampton (**ABS**)
Ronald L. Griffin

Department Personnel Present

Chief Ella M. Bully-Cummings
AC Robert Dunlap
Cmdr. Benjamin Lee
Lt. Darwin Roche
Lt. Charles Wilson
Sgt. Dwight Snodgrass
PO Sophia Nelms

Board Staff Present

Dante' L. Goss, Executive Director
Denise R. Hooks, Attorney/Supervising Inv.
Lawana Ducker, Personnel Director
Arnold Sheard, Chief Investigator
Leslie Griffin, Community Affairs Coordinator
P.O. Kent Cooper

OTHERS PRESENT

Edward Moore
Jeff Retoolko
Frank Rhodes
Isador Strong
Bill Elson
Greg Regal
Gasper Fiore

June Lee
A. Taylor
Barry Steinway
Kristine Davis
Brad Horton
Joann Cooper-Ried

RECORDERS

Terence Bell
Robert Brown

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Ramirez called the meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners to order at 3:17 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- **Thursday, April 17, 2008**

MOTION: Comm. Okdie made the motion to approve the Agenda.

SECOND: Comm. Griffin seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Thursday, March 27, 2008**

MOTION: Comm. Okdie made the motion to approve the Minutes.

SECOND: Comm. Griffin seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

- **Thursday, April 3, 2008**

MOTION: Comm. Griffin made the motion to approve the Minutes.

SECOND: Comm. Okdie seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

- **Thursday, April 10, 2008**

MOTION: Comm. Okdie made the motion to approve the Minutes.

SECOND: Comm. Griffin seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

4. **BOPC OFFICER'S REPORT**

1. CHAIRPERSON

2. SECRETARY REPORT

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

	<u>This Week</u>		<u>Year to Date</u>	
2008 - Weekly Count of Complaints:	26		432	
		37% Decrease		8% Decrease
2007 - Weekly Count of Complaints:	41		468	

- The Office of the Chief Investigator has a total of **1,291** active investigations, of which **385** of those are for 2008.

TOTAL WEEKLY ALLEGATIONS & COMMAND

Total	COMMAND	ALLEGATIONS									Total
CCR	W/E 04/17/08	Arrest	Demeanor	Force	Harassment	Entry	Procedure	Property	Search	Service	Allegations
1	CENTRAL		1				1				2
2	COMMUNICATIONS		2								2
6	EASTERN		3				2		1	2	8
2	NARCOTICS DIVISION		2				2				4
3	NORTHEASTERN		2	1			1			1	5
2	NORTHWESTERN				1					1	2
4	Unknown Command		2				2		1		5
1	VICE ENFORCEMENT							1			1
1	VIOLENT CRIMES			1							1
4	WESTERN				1		2			1	4
26			12	2	2		10	1	2	5	34

Chairperson Ramirez asked Chief Inv. Sheard to give the audience an overview of the compliant process for the Office of the Chief Investigator (OCI).

Chief Inv. Sheard stated that the role of the OCI is to receive and investigate all complaints concerning harassment, force, and procedure, and other forms of alleged misconduct concerning police officers and civilians who work for the department. The citizens can either go online to file the complaint or fax it. They can also go to the Neighborhood City Halls, Libraries, or come to 2111 Woodward on the 8th floor.

5. PRESENTATION/REPORT-CHIEF OF POLICE

April 17, 2008

Volume 4, Issue 16

Detroit Police Department

Report to the Board of Police Commissioners



Special Points of Interest:

- Next meeting:
Thursday, April 24, 2008
@ 3:00 P.M.

Detroit Police Department
1300 Beaubien St.
Detroit, Michigan 48226

“Building a Safer Detroit Through Community Partnerships”

The Detroit Police Department is committed to uphold its mission to provide a safe environment for our residents and businesses. This effort is not possible without the joint commitment of the community and the Police Department. We appreciate and value the role our citizens have played in helping us to take the guns and drugs off the streets of the city of Detroit.

SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Narcotics/Gang Enforcement

During the period of April 7, 2008 through April 13, 2008, **Narcotics/Gang Enforcement** executed **63 search warrants** and **68 street enforcement actions** within the boundaries of the city of Detroit resulting in the following arrests and confiscations:

- 57 Felony arrests
- 242 Misdemeanor arrests
- 9 Juveniles

Confiscated:

- 465.00 grams of cocaine, 95.1 grams of heroin, 13,587.80 grams of marijuana and 27 pills, with a total street value of \$411,802.00
- **\$ 77,035.00** in U.S. Currency
- 40 Handguns

10th Annual Detroit Police Interfaith Candlelight Vigil Service
Tuesday - April 29, 2008
7:00 P.M.
Winter Garden
100-400 Renaissance Center (Atrium)

This service is held annually in honor of fallen Police Officers who have heroically lost their lives in the line of duty. Please join us for this memorial, which means so much to the families of fallen officers, the law enforcement community, and the citizens we are dedicated to serve and protect.



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Engaging the Community

ATTENTION

Citizens wishing to make a police report may do so at the District stations in the city of Detroit. Citizens may also utilize the following District Sub-Stations to make reports.

	<u>Location</u>	<u>Hours of Operation</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
	2151 E. Jefferson	24 Hours	596-6400
	7737 Kercheval	7 a.m. to 3 p.m.	628-2121
	19810 Grand River	10 a.m. to 3 p.m.	935-5322
	13530 Lesure	8 a.m. to 11 p.m.	596-5300
	12000 Livernois	24 Hours	237-2555

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Police / Community Intervention

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Northwestern District

On April 11th, officers of the Northwestern District responded to the 6000 block of Eight Mile on a "Robbery in Progress." *Due to the officers quick response and investigation, a subject was arrested and charged with "Breaking & Entering Business."*



Domestic Violence

On April 10th, officers of the Western District responded to the 4000 block of Seebaldt on a "Person Armed with a Weapon," which resulted in an arrest. *The subsequent investigation conducted by members of Domestic Violence resulted in the subject being charged with "Felony Assault," "Domestic Violence 3rd Offense," and "Habitual 4th."*

Western District

On April 13th, officers of the Western District responded to the 6000 block of Eight Mile on a "Robbery in Progress," of a fast food restaurant. *Immediately upon their arrival, the description of the subjects and vehicle were broadcasted via radio. Shortly after, DPD officers, with the assistance of officers from other law enforcement agencies, apprehended the three subjects identified in the robbery, resulting in the subjects being charged with "Robbery Armed" and "Felony Firearm."*



Southwestern District

On April 10th, Southwestern District officers responded to the 15000 block of Plymouth Road on a "Person Shot/Robbery Armed." *As a result of the officers investigation, two suspects were arrested and charged with "Robbery Armed," "Assault with Intent to Commit Murder," "Assault with Intent to do Great Bodily Harm," and "Felony Firearm."*



Central District

On April 11th, officers of the Central District responded to the 2000 block of Woodward on a "Breaking & Entering in Progress." *Upon further investigation, officers arrested a subject who was later charged with "Home Invasion 2nd Degree," "Larceny in Building," and "Habitual 4th."*

Chairperson Ramirez stated the presentation will be rescheduled at a later date.

Chief Bully-Cummings thanked Comm. Griffin for representing the Board at the ceremony for the first graduation class of 2008. She stated hopefully they will be able to have a class every month.

Comm. Griffin stated it was a wonderful evening.

Chairperson Ramirez asked Dir. Ducker if they were still accepting applications.

Dir. Ducker stated yes ma'am, as of today they have received over 4,000 interest cards. There are at least 300 applicants going through background investigations. Their office hours are from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. An applicant must be at least 18 years of age, have a high school diploma or GED, no felony convictions, valid driver license, be a U.S. Citizen, and have no more than 8 points on their driving record.

Chief Bully-Cummings stated and be able to pass all of the tests.

Dir. Ducker stated there is a State mandated examination and a physical agility test that must be passed along with several other tests.

Chairperson Ramirez asked what improvements has the department made regarding the process.

Dir. Ducker stated they are provided with as much information as possible when they first come in with the interest card. This will help speed up the background check. If all of those things are done and met, they will waive the \$45.00 physical agility test fee. They anticipate there will be a class for next month.

Comm. Okdie asked when the next class will graduate.

Dir. Ducker stated the last part of May or the early part of June.

6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson Ramirez stated she needs approval of the Attorney/Supervisor job description.

MOTION: **Comm. Okdie** made the motion to approve the Job Description.

SECOND: **Comm. Griffin** seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

Chairperson Ramirez asked for L. Griffin to speak on the contest.

L. Griffin stated the Board of Police Commissioners is sponsoring a contest for the City of Detroit juniors and seniors in high school. The purpose is to create a name for the newsletter and improve the relations between our youths, the citizens and the police department. The contest will begin on Monday, April 21, 2008. All entries must be received by May 5, 2008.

Chairperson Ramirez asked what is needed from this Board.

L. Griffin stated an approval for the press release.

Chairperson Ramirez asked for an approval.

MOTION: **Comm. Griffin** made the motion to approve the Newsletter.

SECOND: **Comm. Okdie** seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

Chairperson Ramirez stated for the record the prizes will come from this Board.

6. NEW BUSINESS

1. RESOLUTION: SGT. TIMOTHY MONTI

WHEREAS Timothy Monti was appointed to the Detroit Police Department on January 16, 1975, after serving a tour of duty with the United States Army. Upon graduating from the Detroit Metropolitan Police Academy, he began his career at the 13th Precinct; and

WHEREAS Officer Monti was assigned to Aviation on January 6 1977, where he served as a certified pilot. On September 8, 1980, Officer Monti was assigned to the Fifth Precinct as a Patrol Officer. Due to his skill and expertise as a pilot, Officer Monti proved to be an asset to Aviation, and therefore was reassigned to Aviation on September 14, 1981; and

WHEREAS Officer Monti was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on January 10, 1986, and continued in his assignment with Aviation. On June 15, 2006, Sergeant Monti was transferred to Homeland Security where he remained until his retirement on January 9, 2008; and

WHEREAS Sergeant Monti has shown dedication to the offices and duties as a public servant, as evidenced by the awards he received, which include (1) GOP Commemorative Award, (1) Presidential Letter of Appreciation from former United States President Ronald Reagan, (4) Chief's Merit Awards, (2) Chief's Unit Awards, (1) Citation, (1) Lifesaving Citation and Medal, (1) Departmental Citation and Medal, several Perfect Attendance Awards, (20) Letters of Appreciation from supervisors and other law enforcement agencies and citizens; and

WHEREAS Sergeant Monti has willingly served the Detroit Police Department, the citizens of Detroit and its communities for over 32 years. His professionalism, expertise in aviation, and high standard of service has been a credit to the department and the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking on behalf of the citizens of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department, awards this resolution in recognition of Sergeant Timothy Monti's 32 years of outstanding service. His commitment to protect and serve the citizens of the city of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department merits our highest regards and best wishes for a long, happy and healthy retirement.

We salute and congratulate you, Sergeant Timothy Monti.

DETROIT BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

/s/ Erminia Ramirez
Chairperson

/s/ Jim Holley
Vice-Chairperson

/s/ Mohamed Okdie
Commissioner

ADOPTED BY THE

/s/ Willie Hampton
Commissioner

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
April 17, 2008

/s/ Rev. Ronald L. Griffin
Commissioner

MOTION: Comm. Okdie made the motion to approve the Resolution.

SECOND: Comm. Griffin seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

8. OLD BUSINESS

1. **GRANT:** REQUEST TO APPLY FOR THE “INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT FOR FAMILY MEMBERS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS” GRANT FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (USDOJ)

The United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime is seeking applications for funding under the “Intensive Case Management for Family Members of Homicide Victims” grant announcement. Public agencies that can demonstrate: (1) knowledge and understanding regarding the service needs of families after a homicide; (2) experience in program development and implementation of direct service programs for crime victims and their families; (3) and staff resources and capability to carry out all activities required by the funded project, may apply for up to **\$200,000.00, with no cash match.**

The purpose of this grant announcement is to provide a comprehensive array of services to family members of homicide victims. The funding will be used to enhance, evaluate, and institutionalize existing promising service interventions in partnership with other community agencies in the target area(s). Homicide currently has a program that meets the grant’s guidelines in the Victim of Crime Act Program (VOCA) and this grant funding would be used to enhance the program.

In the event that approval is granted to apply and the award is received, Lieutenant Dwayne Blackmon, of Homicide, will serve as the project director. **The deadline for this application is April 24, 2008.**

Upon your approval, the Detroit City Council will be requested to adopt a resolution supporting this application.

Chairperson Ramirez asked is there anyone present to speak on this Grant.

J. Cooper-Reid stated her department is asking for approval of the Grant. This grant will provide resources to family members of homicide victims.

Chairperson Ramirez asked is it a booklet that you are providing.

J. Cooper-Reid stated no, it will provide funding to hire case managers which will work with the surviving family [members].

Chairperson Ramirez asked what the application amount is.

J. Cooper-Reid stated \$200,000.00 initially, with the possibility of a renewal over the next three years. Also, the Crime Victims Services in Lansing is collaboration with them.

Comm. Griffin asked for a quick overview on how the process will work.

J. Cooper-Reid stated each person will be assigned a case manager who will stay in touch with that family. By performing assessments on a daily basis, we will make sure they get adequate services and do a follow-up on a monthly basis to make sure all of their services are met.

MOTION: **Comm. Okdie** made the motion to approve the Grant.

SECOND: **Comm. Griffin** seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

2. RESOLUTION: MS. LESLIE MALCOLMSON

MOTION: **Comm. Okdie** made the motion to approve the Resolution.

SECOND: **Comm. Griffin** seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

9. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, April 24, 2008, @3:00 p.m.
Police Headquarters
1300 Beaubien, Rm. 328-A
Detroit, MI 48226

10. ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

E. Moore stated to the Board and the Chief that Councilman Kenyetta sends his greetings and his door is always open.

J. Lee stated I am here on behalf of several of the police-authorized towers. My understanding is there was recently an RFP issued to change the current scheme of the towing services that was provided by the city. As part of that, there were several complaints, issues, concerns that were raised by your towers. Currently, it is my understanding, pursuant to the Charter of the City Ordinance, this honorable body is the policy setting body for the Detroit Police Department. Given that, the RFP which shifts from having 27 local towers will reverse to a single source management company controlling the towing for the City. That will mark a policy shift that this body should review. If it has reviewed it, I am not aware of it. Our concerns are centered on the fact that this RFP is ambiguous in several of its terms. It is difficult to put a bid in that is responsive to the responses that the department is asking for. There was a pre-bid meeting held on Tuesday, last Tuesday and there were several questions pertaining to the RFP that were raised and remained unanswered. Our position is that it is not possible to put in a responsive bid unless those questions are answered. That needs to be made clear as to what the department is asking for, pricing as far as the regulating that we need to follow. It is not clear what the structure is going to be. We think that the RFP is such that it is not possible to end up receiving a set of bids that can be reasonably comparable to one another. As a matter of policy, we do believe that a lot of the objectives can be met under the current contract. We request that this Board uses its power to ask the police department to withdraw the RFP.

Chairperson Ramirez stated she has received some information and it has been passed out to the other Commissioners and we are going to look at it and then we will consult to see what role the Board of Police Commissioner has.

J. Retilko stated my father and I own Taylor Auto Salvage. We purchase probably three to four thousand vehicles per year from the 27 some odd towers on behalf of the current contract. We have 30 employees and while we are not in Detroit, probably 18 of our employees are residents of the City. I can say that if the number of cars that we currently are able to purchase is cut in half, it will have a detrimental impact on our business and possibly the livelihood of some of the folks that work for us. I have been led to believe that several of the frontrunners that are bidding on this "Request for Proposal" would more than likely consume all the cars themselves. Another concern will be that the 27 towers that currently do this are mom and pop operations. For many of them it's their entire livelihood at stake. After talking to many of them, it sounds as if they are willing to work together and commission themselves instead of having one

management team. They will be willing to group together to have an overseeing Board from the community, towers, police department and this Board...sort of do exactly what the proposal will like to see happen. So I would ask that you consider that.

Comm. Okdie asked what City is your business in.

J. Retilko stated it is in Taylor.

Chief Bully-Cummings stated Commissioners can I make you aware of a few things. I understand that you are going to review the Commissioners' role in the department's ability to work with the City of Detroit Purchasing Department who issued the RFP. As you review the RFP, I would also ask that you review the 2005 Auditor General's Report, which indicates that the Detroit Police Department does not have the capacity to manage towing. This is a 2005 Report, which covers years in which we've had anywhere from 800 to a thousand or more police officers. This RFP is for a towing management and logistics' company. The police department does not have the capacity to manage towing and if you read the Auditor General's Report, which I believe you need to in conjunction with reviewing the RFP, I think you will understand the position that the Detroit Police Department is in. What I will say for the record is that the liaison or the contact person in the police department who has been involved with the City's purchasing department is Assistant Chief Ralph Godbee. After this RFP was let out by the purchasing department, we received over 300 questions from the towers to which we had to respond to. The questions were provided to the purchasing department, and a previous conference was held April 15th or something like that. What I would tell you in addition to that is that Mayor Kilpatrick had indicated that he will provide, and don't I know who else will be involved in this, to make Assistant Chief Godbee available to respond again in addition to the 300 questions. But I just implore this Board to read the 2005 Auditor General's Report.

F. Rhodes stated I also represent some of the towers regarding that contract. In response to the Chief's comments, you should read the 2005 Report because it embraces the concept, in which you need data management and bookkeeping. In issues taking care of to comply with Michigan's Law, they suggested that they move the personnel away from sworn peace officers who are very expensive to train. They need other employees or some other outside entities. The RFP, as it is drafted, instead of addressing that matter creates a giant towing company. The police towers live, not on the \$75.00 tow, rather from the storage fees and the salvage they get after the tow is done. The fact that the RFP in provision Roman numeral 8-5 says that somewhere between 12 and 27 of the existing towers is supposed to be folded into this towing company, the unintended consequence is that they will all be out of business, because they cannot pay for \$60,000.00 flat beds and \$200,000.00 tractor trailers on \$75.00 a tow. You don't need a towing company. You can exist with the one that you have. They can

participate in something like the Checker Cab where someone minds the data entry materials. There is one phone call for each officer that makes an impound or tow issue. It is independent of the city and all the paperwork is done. Maybe the State Police can have a non-police officer for the LIEN System, which has been the biggest backup. My suggestion is when you look at this, it will be helpful to have an open forum with tow operators, data entry people, and the police department so all can voice their concerns with one another. This will show them that they have to have this because this can be a money-maker for the City.

B. Steinway stated I am appearing on behalf of various towers for the city of Detroit. I'd like to point out that there is a major concern in that the RFP would be anti-competitive rather than favoring competition between the various entities performing the services related to towing. With a single source controlling all of the aspects, you are going to cut out the competition. There 's a possibility that the single source could cause the front end to be lowered on towing and storage, and at the back end an increase in scraps and parts. The RFP is ambiguous when it comes to the performance bond and the people submitting bids cannot know what those bonds are about. We would ask that it be placed on hold until future evaluation and discussion could be had, so that it can be reworded so that all entities that wish to compete can do so.

Comm. Okdie asked do you know whether or not you or any of the other business owners has addressed City Council on this issue.

B. Steinway stated I am not sure, but a number of people are saying yes. There was a Resolution from City Council that I did see that suggested putting off the RFP.

Comm. Okdie stated we have a copy of that.

Chairperson Ramirez stated I am hearing that you are not in agreement with the City Council Resolution.

B. Steinway stated to put it off yes, and will like for the language to be worked on.

I. Strong stated I am an automotive recycler. I read a publication called the "Towing Times" which shows what towing companies are suing what government bodies over their grievances regarding the rotation system. I believe that it will be strongly in the best interest for the city of Detroit if this matter is to be reconsidered and the proposal to be rewritten. The contractor might be instructed to defend the City against any actions that might arise from other entities being removed. Thirteen companies are to be removed and it would not surprise me if there are some litigations. At the City Council, a representative from the police department stated one of the motivations for the formulation of this request was

because there is a long history of hard feelings of the people in the rotation who feel that they are not being treated fairly.

K. Davis stated I am with AC Towing, along with my husband and children. In regards to the Auditor General's Report that came out in 2005, this is not the first time that I have stood in front of this Board and asked them about the one source tow company. I was told two years ago that it was just a rumor. Now this RFP has been dropped on us. Giving us less than a month, to meet one of the requirements, of which is \$50,000.00 to apply for the RFP. I was reading your paper that read "building a community through partnership" and that's what we want to do. We want to build and we don't want to tear down, but that's what this RFP will do. In two weeks our doors will be closed because we only have two weeks to meet the requirements. We are here to appeal to you because this is our livelihood. Do not let this one towing company come in and take over the business, or you will be putting many of the businesses out of business.

B. Elson stated I was a little unclear to the comment made earlier, doesn't the Commission have jurisdiction of the RFP.

Chairperson Ramirez stated we just received some information and we need to look at it. We have our attorney that will be doing some research to see what role the Board of Police Commissioners has.

B. Elson stated in that regard, please take note that the RFP was issued on March 14th. An initial required response was due by April 8th. As a result of the Chief's acknowledgement about the 300 questions, that was moved up until April 30th. This matter has been in front of the Detroit Police Department to consider what to do with this entire matter for a number of years. With an April 30 deadline, we would ask that the Commission act expeditiously because it is due in less than two weeks.

Chairperson Ramirez stated it's noted.

B. Horton stated as Kristine Davis mentioned, we are not a towing contractor, but a parts supplier. We do a lot of business with the owners that are here. We purchased three quarters of our vehicles from the towing contractors. If one management team comes in and takes over this entire market, we are going to be squashed like little grapes. My 30 employees, which are Detroit residents, will have nowhere to go. We are very, very, very concerned about this. If there is any way the towing contractors can get together and formulate a software system as needed, and whatever we can do as a community because our business has been here for 40 years. I am more than willing to step up to the plate and do what we can do as a business owner. We all know what monopolies do and it is not a good thing.

G. Regal stated I own Michigan Auto Recovery, a police tower since 1988. We have done a good job for the city, so have all of the people here. The Chief made a comment earlier saying the reason they were considering going to a national company because we don't have the resources in the police department to run the contract. Chief, way back when we had a pilot program with Cmdr. Judy Downing of the 6th Precinct, we had five towers at that time for the 6th Precinct, now known as the Northwest District. When we get called to a tow scene, the officers gives us the tow card and instead of taking the car out of service to go on a call with TCRU, we signed the impound card as we do today, go back to our yard, we call TCRU within two minutes to recover the car immediately. At the end of the day, we were issued a sheet that we faxed to the precinct. When we got that fax we wrote down who we talked to at TCRU at the time. Instead of having this whole big rack of impound cards, they were cross-referenced with our sheet. Chief, all the five companies total was 100% effective...100% of getting everything accounted for. We never had to give a car back to a customer because it was sitting there for two or three days, it was recovered immediately.

Chairperson Ramirez stated you had to call the customer.

G. Regal stated when we called the car into TCRU, they would recover the car immediately. People came to recover their car immediately as well as the insurance companies. There are cars that are sitting in our yards for over 30 days that the insurance companies have paid off that are totaled. The insurance companies loved that program because it saved them money. As soon as the new Commission came in, the new Mayor came in, they immediately disbanded it. Chief, you have 27 towers that have been working for the city of Detroit for many years. Please use us because we know how to work together as a team with you. You don't need a management to take away metal and scrap, because they say they don't have enough officers to manage the towing. A law that came out two years ago stated that the department can deputize businesses to do auctions and A-bands. We have not seen one thing that came from the city of Detroit that will allow us to help. We are your team; they are disbanding your team to give this to one person that will put us all out of business. It is all about money and we don't have a problem working with the City and giving you money, because we feel the City deserves it. We have not had a raise since 1976 when we started the tow was \$75.00 and a tow truck was \$ 30,000.00, now they are \$90,000.00. Chief, we are your team, please allow us to be your team.

G. Fiore stated Chief, I am from Boulevard and Trumbull towing.

Chairperson Ramirez stated this is the Commission, you just said Chief.

G. Fiore stated I have had a business on Boulevard and Trumbull for many years and I am here to represent my company. I was called the other day by many staff members of City Council. They told me that the Mayor, Assistant Chief, and three Council members had a meeting and talked about the towing. The Mayor asked the A.C. if he could get in contact with some of the towers and have a meeting and maybe have a committee and talk about it. So, I am here to ask when that meeting is going to be. I think this RFP should have been put off a little bit longer until we can at least address the Assistant Chief and come up with our own little policy to address the towers.

Chief Bully-Cummings stated the Commissioner is going to answer his question because I don't know when that meeting is going to be scheduled. What I was advised is that the Mayor directed that there be a meeting with the towers and Assistant Chief Ralph Godbee. I just want to say something for the record to all the towers. It is never...I recognize that comments are directed toward me as the Chief of Police Ella Bully-Cummings. I want all of you to understand it is not my intent to put anybody out of business; it is my intent to manage this police department appropriately. I hear your comments about the unintended consequences of the RFP. I want you to know from me that is not my intent. I have been a police officer for over 30 years. I have worked with many towers, and worked in the precinct. I understand that it is your lively hood. I have never read the RFP, because I am not involved in it and that is why Assistant Chief Godbee is the contact person. In addition to the questions that were provided, it has been significantly conversational about this RFP. I believe that is why the Mayor has directed that a meeting be held with the towers and Assistant Chief Godbee. Absolutely nothing is personal; it's about managing this police department.

Chairperson Ramirez stated so I understand there is going to be a meeting with the towers.

Chief Bully-Cummings stated yes, but Mr. Fiore I don't know when it will take place. I will get with AC Godbee and find out how it will be communicated to the towers so that you can participate.

Comm. Griffin stated I have heard several things stated today and I feel what you feel. Yet we have a real issue with respect to criticisms that the Detroit Police Department is not adequately covering the streets and doing the things they need to do. I hear you loud and clear about the monopolies. The airlines and everywhere you go monopolies are present; and they have never been proven good for the common man. We have enough history to know that. I understand clearly about jobs, if I can just wear my other hat for a moment. As a pastor of a church, I know if my parishioners are not working the church goes out of business, because that's tithes and offerings. This is far reaching and one thing clearly must be done, and I don't want you to think as our Chairperson has stated that we are fenced or straddling or opting to get out of this. We have an

attorney that is going to see whether or not this Commission has any responsibility whatsoever, that's the first step. Once we find out what our role is, then we will take the appropriate action. If we have no role, if nothing else you will have the minutes from this meeting. But you absolutely ought to galvanize everybody and get to that meeting that the Mayor has called with the Assistant Chief. You have to do at least that and make your voices heard. Then if there is a role that this body has to take, I promise you we will not shuck our responsibility.

K. Davis stated when we came to the meeting we had a totally different thoughts about the Police Commission. Everything was pointing to you guys as the bad guy. I apologize for that. I did not know you were not aware of what was going on. I feel what you are saying, because you have a real concern for us and I appreciate that.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DANTE' L. GOSS
Executive Director
Board of Police Commissioners

DLG/rb